

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-22 are present in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 have been canceled. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, and 19 are independent claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement filed November 10, 2005 has not been acknowledged by the Examiner as to consideration of the reference cited therein. **Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide Applicant with an initialed PTO-1449 Form, indicating consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted November 10, 2005.**

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 3, 5, 7-9, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and that claims 12-22 are allowed.

Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 3, 5, 8, and 11 into independent form. Also, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form and incorporates the features of claim 7. Claim 9 remains dependent on claim 8. Thus, Applicants request that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 be allowed.

All claims being in condition for allowance, Applicants request allowance of the present application.

Claim Rejections

- 1) Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0028350 to Matsuoka et al., with U.S. Patent No. 6,859,219 to Sall in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,424 to Hamagishi.

2) Claims 6 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuoka, with Sall in view of Hamagishi and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,434,966 to Nakazawa et al.

Based on the above-stated rewritten claims, Applicants submit that the prior art rejections no longer apply. Applicants request that the rejections based on prior art be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

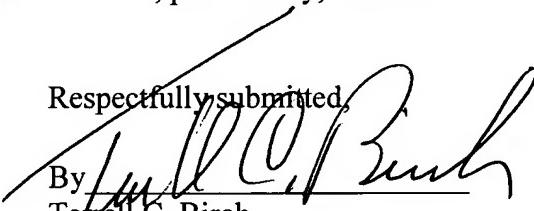
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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